

Superfund Records Center
SITE: Former CIBA-Geigy
BREAK: 19.00
OTHER: 638015

**Herff Jones Jewelry Division
New Era in Rhode Island
New Manufacturing Plant Construction Activity Update**

**By Bob Ilg
Chief Engineer and Project Development Manager**

I remember when Herff Jones started manufacturing class rings and awards in Rhode Island. It was January 31, 1980, when HJ acquired Dieges and Clust Company. D&C was a strong regional manufacturer of class rings and emblematic products. We moved Bale Company from Boston into the Dieges building in the summer of 1980. HJ has grown in Rhode Island ever since. Our continued growth has resulted in the need for a second Rhode Island manufacturing facility to specialize in manufacturing high school rings.

Our new plant construction project is on schedule and on budget. Here is an abbreviated list of what we have accomplished since the actual groundbreaking on September 5. In the first 81 working days, we have accomplished the following:

1. The site, on the banks of the Pawtuxet River, has been prepared for construction.

At the turn of the century, the Pawtuxet River was the second most popular canoeing river in America. By the time the project is finished, we

will have moved approximately 52,404 cubic yards of earth.

2. We have used earth fill to raise the elevation of the facility floor and surrounding ground, about 2 acres of land, approximately 4 – 5 feet to 20 feet above sea level.
3. The parking lots have also been raised to 19 feet above sea level. We added fill of approximately 4 feet to approximately 5 acres of land. All the fill came directly from our own property.
4. All the concrete footings and foundation walls have been poured.
5. All the concrete support foundations for the steel installation were completed.
6. All the structural steel for erection has been completed. Approximately 72 tons of Canadian steel was used. This is also 71 tons of rebar steel to reinforce all concrete



SEMS DocID 638015

support work.

7. The roof has been completed. The roofing supply company is headquartered in Carmel, Indiana.

8. Pre-cast reinforced concrete panel walls produced in Connecticut have been erected and installed. Each panel weighs up to 18,000 lbs. These panels are 9' 11 ¼" wide, 19' tall, 8" thick (3" of concrete, 2" of insulation, 3" of concrete). There are 112 concrete panels that make up the exterior walls of the building.

9. All external doors and windows have been installed. The glass was produced in Massachusetts.

10. Heat for winter operations inside the building has been installed.

11. All utilities required for plant operations have been brought in, installed on the property and tied into the facility. The facilities and utilities include sanitary sewer, water, plumbing, regulated electrical service, high-pressure natural gas, roads, storm sewer and drainage.

12. The property includes 25.6 acres of land (1,560 feet are adjacent to the Pawtuxet River). There will be approximately 5,000 feet of nature walking trails on the premises. The walking path will include 1,560 feet running along the side of the Pawtuxet River. The plant is 3 miles from the airport, 3 miles from our existing Providence plant and 4 miles from downtown Providence. Less than 2 miles from the Atlantic Ocean, it's a wonderful location with convenient access for all our employee owners. Roger Williams and Pawtuxet State Parks are within 1 mile of the new plant. The elevation compensation areas and detention ponds have been built. The spillway to the Pawtuxet River from the detention ponds that drain the roof, roads and parking lots has been completed. The property is surrounded by mature 75 – 100 year old oak, maple and pine trees that will contribute to the landscape and river walk views.

13. A majority of the dual function heat and air conditioning roof top units have been installed, to include the heating, ventilating and air conditioning ductwork throughout the plant. The ductwork comes from Massachusetts. The Trane HVAC units are manufactured in Tennessee.

14. All underground plumbing inside the plant, under the concrete slab floor, has been completed.

15. All underground drainage pipes for proper draining of the property have been installed.

16. Installation of overhead piping, temporary lighting, electrical buss ducts and heating and air conditioning ductwork has been installed.

17. We poured the interior facility concrete slab at the proper 20' elevation.

18. A perimeter security fence has been installed to secure the property. We also have monitored electronic surveillance and nighttime guard service.

Thinking back to 1980, we never dreamed of the success and growth that would be achieved over the subsequent years. The dedication of the Providence employee owners with their positive, enthusiastic and optimistic attitude made

this success story a reality. They have displayed tremendous energy and initiative over a long period of time.

Our plan is to officially move into the new facility on or about July 1, 2003. It is anticipated that we will be in full class ring production by September 2003.

Here are some interesting statistics concerning the construction project:

- A. The building is 242'4" wide x 322'4" long (78,112 sq ft)
- B. Concrete slabs and walls = 7,686 sq ft. We plan to use 2,540 cubic yards of concrete to support the project.
(Includes loading dock exterior, back of building and all landings by exits. Excludes front of building.)
- C. Side walks = 6,302 sq ft
(Canopy is above sidewalk and is included in sidewalk area.)
- D. Asphalt pavement = 188,331 sq ft
- E. Gazebo 24'x24' = 576 sq ft
- F. Storage pad 20' x 20' = 400 sq ft

TOTAL SQ FOOTAGE: 281,407 sq ft

- G. There will be approximately 291,000 linear feet of electrical wire used on the project. $291,000 \div 5,280 \text{ feet/mile} = 55.1 \text{ miles}$. There is another 30,000 feet of wire for equipment connections. $\text{Total } 321,075' \div 5,280' = 60.80 \text{ miles}$.

From September 5 through December 31, we will have had approximately 81 working days on the project. We have made great progress, and we owe thanks to the construction management team, as well as the approximately 100 subcontractor employees who have kept the project on an expedited schedule. The following professional engineering and construction companies were involved in the design and planning for the project:

Civil Engineers

VHB Engineering

Providence, RI

Design & Engineering

R.E. Jacobs Company

Indianapolis,

IN

Construction Management

Banks Company, Inc.

Providence, RI

The Indianapolis jewelry plant was used as a model for the new plant.

When the project is completed, the official address will be as follows:

Herff Jones Center

150 Herff Jones Way

Warwick, RI 02888-1332

(This address does not become effective until July 1, 2003)

Little known Rhode Island fact:

- As the smallest state, it is only 48 miles from north to south and 37 miles from east to west state line boundaries.